His Majesties Most Gracious (260)

SPEECH

To both Houses of Parliament, on *Tuesday* the Eleventh Day of *November*, 1718.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

SINCE your last Recess, I have, by the Blessing of Almighty God, Concluded such Terms and Conditions of Peace and Alliance between the Greatest Princes of Europe, as will, in all human Appearance, induce others to follow Their Example, and make any Attempts to Disturb the Publick Tranquillity, not only Dangerous but Impracticable.

These Engagements, I am perswaded, will be so much the more Agreeable to all My Good Subjects, as they bind the Contracting Powers to Support the Succession to these Kingdoms in My Family, to which some were not at all, and others not so fully bound by any former Treaties.

During the whole Course of these Negotiations, a most Strict Regard has been had to the Interests of Spain, and better Conditions have been Stipulated for that King, than were insisted upon in his Behalf even at the Treaty of Utrecht; but the War in Hungary (which by Our Mediation is since happily ended) having tempted the Court of Spain unjustly to Attack the Emperor, and the Hopes they have since conceived of Raising Disturbances in Great-Britain, France, and elsewhere, having encouraged them to believe, that We should not be Able to act in Pursuance of Our Treaties for the Defence of the Dominions Invaded by them, nor even to support those other Essential and Necessary Conditions of the Treaty of Utrecht, which Provide against the great Monarchies of *Europe*, being at any time hereafter United under one Sovereign; They have not only Persisted in such a Notorious Violation of the Publick Peace and Tranquility, but have rejected all Our Amicable Proposals, and have broke through their most Solemn Engagements for the Security of Our Commerce.

To vindicate therefore the Faith of Our former Treaties, as well as to maintain those which We have lately made, and to protect and defend the Trade of My Subjects, which has in every Branch been violently and unjustly oppressed, it became necessary for Our Naval Forces to check their Progress. It was reasonable to hope, that the Success of Our Arms, the repeated Offers of Friendship, which I have never ceased to make in the most pressing manner, and the Measures taken in Concert with the Emperor, and the Most Christian King, to restore the Publick Tranquility, would have produced a better Disposition in the Court of Spain; but I have received Informations, that instead of listening to Our reasonable Terms of Accommodation, that Court has lately given Orders to all the Ports of Spain, and of the West-Indies, to fit out Privateers and to take Our Ships.

I am perswaded that a British Parliament will enable Me to resent such Treatment, as becomes Us. And it is with Pleasure that I can assure you of the ready and friendly Resolutions of Our Good Brother the Regent of France, to concur and joyn with me in the most vigorous Measures.

The firm Confidence I repose in the Affections of My People, together with My earnest Desire to ease them of every Charge not absolutely necessary, determined Me, immediately after the Exchange of the Ratifications of Our great Alliance, to make a very considerable Reduction of Our Land-Forces; nor could I better express, than by so doing, how little We apprehend the Attempts of Our Enemies to disturb the Peace of My Kingdoms, even though Spain should think fit to continue some time in War. Our Naval Force Imployed in Concert with Our Allies will I trust in God, soon put a happy End to the Troubles which the Ambitious Views of that Court have begun, and secure to My Subjects the Execution of the many Treaties in force relating to Our Commerce.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must desire you to grant Me such Supplies as will enable Me to carry on the Service of the Year. I have given Orders to have the proper Estimates laid before you, whereby you will perceive I have reduced the Expence as much as our Circumstances can well admit. I have the Pleasure to observe to you, that the Funds appropriated for Sinking the Publick Debts, have answered above Expectation. I must however recommend to you to consider of proper Methods for Improving them, by preventing the Frauds and Abuses daily committed in the Publick Revenues not doubting but in all your Proceedings you will have that Regard to the inviolable Preservation of the Publick Credit, which may quiet the Minds of all those that have trusted to Parliamentary Engagements.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

There never was a time when your Unanimity, your Vigour, and Dispatch, were more necessary to so many good Ends, as those We have now in View. I have done My Part. It remains with you to give the last Finishing to this great Work. Our Friends and Our Enemies, both at Home and Abroad, are waiting the Event of your Resolutions: And I dare promise My Self, that the first have nothing to apprehend, nor the others to hope for your Conduct in this important Juncture, who have, during the whole Course of my Reign, given such lively Proofs of your Zeal and Affecton to my Person, and of your Love to your Country.

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